

## **Level 1E Establishment Grant (NoA received 12-17-14) Project Abstract**

- i. Application Title: Cooperative Agreement to Support Establishment of State-Operated Health Insurance Exchanges, Level 1 Establishment
- ii. Applicant Organization Name: Commonwealth of Massachusetts (MA) Health Insurance Connector Authority (Health Connector)
- iii. Funding Opportunity Number: CFDA: 93.525
- iv. Address: 100 City Hall Plaza, 6th Floor Boston, MA 02108
- v. Congressional District Served: MA-008
- vi. Organization Website: [www.mahealthconnector.org](http://www.mahealthconnector.org)
- vii. Category of Funding: Level One
- viii. Projected Date for Project Completion: 2015

### **History of Organization**

The Health Connector is an independent state authority created by Chapter 58 of the Acts of 2006 that now serves as the state's Marketplace, assisting individuals and small employers in acquiring Affordable Care Act (ACA)-compliant health insurance. Subsidized coverage is available through the ConnectorCare program and ACA-compliant coverage is available to individuals and small businesses. The Health Connector is also responsible for policy development associated with the adult health coverage mandate and administration of appeals for those tax filers who have chosen to appeal potential tax liabilities for not having coverage.

### **Brief Description of Populations Served by Project**

In transitioning to an ACA-compliant, state-based Marketplace, MA overcame IT system underperformance by working closely with CMS and providing alternative pathways to coverage. As a result, more people have access to health care than before, including more than 250,000 new people in state-sponsored coverage. As of August 7, 2014, the Commonwealth will continue as a state-based Marketplace and move forward exclusively with hCentive. The populations that the Health Connector will serve by this project are unsubsidized and subsidized individuals (both new and current members who need to transition), as well as small employers and their employees. Projects funded in this grant application will enable an ACA-compliant SHOP, new payment processing solutions, and CMS-required and other critical enhancements to the MA HIX in CY2015 needed for member retention and Marketplace long-term sustainability.

### **Brief Description of Proposed Projects and Deliverables**

The projects proposed in this application will assist the Health Connector in developing an ACA-compliant SHOP for small businesses, payment processing solutions in hCentive, and CMS-required and new critical functionality in the MA HIX in order to retain our current members and attract new members. Proposed new enhancements include functionality for reporting, renewals and redeterminations, appeals, decision support and a portal for Navigators and Certified Application Counselors. These enhancements are imperative for the long-term sustainability of the Marketplace and will provide current and potential members with a user-friendly experience.

### **Brief Description of Other Relevant Information Including Proposed Impact of Funding**

MA remains committed to providing its residents access to affordable, ACA-compliant coverage, and the Health Connector has an important role in that initiative. Funding from a Level One Establishment grant will allow the Health Connector to invest in efforts to achieve ACA compliance and build on the success of the state's initial health reform efforts and coverage gains.